



What is the Young Advocates Council?

The Young Advocates Council (YAC) is a group of dedicated, entrepreneurial high school students who are passionate about the North Texas Food Bank's (NTFB) mission to close the hunger gap in North Texas.

High school students entering 9-11th grades (seniors are considered on a case-by-case basis) are eligible and apply during an annual application period in May and June. In recent years, the food bank has benefited from increased visibility into its work and mission thanks to the hard work of the various communities that make up our affinity groups like the YAC.

Over the course of the school year, YAC members learn about hunger in America, food banking, advocacy, how NTFB fits into this ecosystem and what NTFB does to fight hunger in North Texas. They also learn about non-profit organizations, fundraising and marketing to best prepare them for an annual spring fundraiser.

Beyond these learning opportunities, students host canned food drives during the school year and volunteer together at NTFB's Perot Family Campus in Plano. The most dedicated students are given the opportunity to work through the summer with our Volunteer Experience team as Jr. Production Kernels.

Leadership Opportunities and High School Clubs

The YAC also provides opportunities for dedicated students to develop crucial leadership skills within an environment of community service.

Each year, returning members run for leadership positions like President, Secretary and Social Media Manager, all positions with specific responsibilities. During the 2021-22 school year, the Young Advocates Leadership Board helped develop a Charter for high school clubs.

The Young Advocates Students Against Hunger Club is comprised of current YAC students who bring the knowledge they gain from the YAC to their peers at school while also helping NTFB engage more deeply with these future leaders.

Clubs meet at school during the school year and abide by their schools' club policies. They hold their own canned food drives and even volunteer at the food bank together.

History of the YAC and Current Class of 2022-23

The YAC began during the 2018-19 school year with 24 students in grades 9-12.

During their first year, the students met quarterly in person to learn about NTFB and the value of volunteering. They also spent time planning a fundraiser.

Since its inception, the YAC has grown to more than 100 students from 24 different schools. In addition, they host an annual fundraiser. Last year they raised over **\$12,500** and collected nearly **4,000** pounds of nutritious food.

Also this year, the class drafted their first Club Charter, as previously mentioned.

For more information on this year's YAC Class of 2022-23:



- **88 Total Members** – 59 returning members, 29 new members



- **27 Total High Schools** – 9 working to start a high school club

- Emerson High - *McKinney*
- Greenhill High - *Addison*
- Heritage High - *Frisco*
- JJ Pearce High - *Richardson*
- John Paul II - *Plano*
- Lonestar High - *Frisco*
- Parish Episcopal School - *Dallas*
- Plano West Sr. High - *Plano*
- Wakeland – *Frisco*



- **8 YAC Board Leaders**

- 2 Co-Presidents
- Secretary
- Social Media Manager
- 2 High School Club Managers
- 2 Canned Food Drive Managers

For more information on the YAC, please visit ntfb.org/yac, and follow us on Instagram @ntfb.yac. If you have questions about the program or application process, please email John Jenkins at yac@ntfb.org.